MR. T. K. NARAYANA PILLAI: May I know what is the principle upon which the liability is fixed for payment?

MR K. R. NARAYANA AIYAR: When the grains are transported from one place to another and if in the course of the transport, shortage is found, then the vallom wherein the shortage occurs will be released only after the value of shortage has been made good.

MR. E. K. MADHAVAN: May I know whether the vallom is commandeered with the permission or without the knowledge of the owner.

MR. K. R. NARAYANA AIYAR: Commandeering does not contemplate permission of the owner.

MR. P. M. VARGHESE (*Vaikom* cum *Kottayam*): May I know when the vallom is in the possession of Government how does the owner become responsible for shortage?

MR. K. R. NARAYANA AIYAR: The owner as such is not at all asked to pay for shortage. But the men who pilfer the grains are asked to bear the value of the shortage.

PRESIDENT: Is it not a fact that sometimes the owner is also acting as the boatman? Is it not a fact that sometimes the boatmen account to the owners for the profits earned by them? If they get a share of the profits, should they not be asked to pay the value of the shortages found?

MR. S. SANKARANARAYANAN TAMPI: Absolutely no, Sir. The boat owner cannot be made responsible for shortages.

MR. PULIYOOR T. P. VELAYUDHAN PILLAI: But, may I know, how does the shortage occur when each vallom is escorted by the police?

MR. K. R. NARAYANA AIYAR: It is not possible for one policeman to look into all the pilfering taking place in the different valloms.

MR. PULIYOOR T. P. VELAYUDHAN PILLAI: Then may I know why should the grains be escorted by the police?

MR. K. R. NARAYANA AIYAR: To check pilfering as far as possible.

MR. K. K. CHELLAPPAN PILLAI: May I know how many cases of shortages have come to the notice of Government till now?

MR. K. R. NARAYANA AIYAR: I claim notice

Commandeering of Valloms.

17. ***MR. P. S. MOHAMED:** Will the Government be pleased to state:

(*a*) the number of valloms (of 8 tons and above) that are running in the canals and lakes of Travancore;

(*b*) the number of valloms under commandeering at present:

(*c*) whether any principle has been followed by the authorities for releasing the valloms that were brought under commandeering;

(*d*) the number of valloms that were released from commandeering during 1119;

(*e*) the principle that was followed for the release of the valloms from commandeering; and

(*f*) the name of the officer with his designation, who has been made responsible for commandeering of valloms and their release?

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